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GRADUATE SCHOOL

CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR THE FEDERAL
COMMUNITY

Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1970

January 26

February 3

Evening Program classes begin

Faculty Luncheon. Speaker: William W. Taylor, Chief of Information, National Audiovisual Center, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration. Topic: "Communicating and Relating to Students."

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Lecture - "Host-selective Toxins from Plant Pathogens as Determinants of Pathogenicity," by Dr. R. P. Scheffer, Michigan State University. Plant Industry Station, Beltsville at 10:30 a.m.

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Holiday for George Washington's Birthday

FCC -- URBAN LAND GRANT SCHOOL

The first urban land grant institution in the nation and the only public four-year liberal arts institution in the District of Columbia.

That's the way Federal City College in Washington D.C. was described by its newly appointed president, Dr. Harland L. Randolph, at the January faculty luncheon.

"It may seem strange to think of a land grant school in the middle of an urban area," Dr. Randolph said, "but that's exactly what we are. And as such, we must direct our resources to urban problems rather than corn and chickens. Combining the land grant aspects with being the only public liberal arts school, we must also serve as the state university for the District of Columbia. We may not be called that, but in role and function we must perform as a state university."



Dr. Randolph said present enrollment at the two-year-old college is 4,000, but studies have shown it could reach 21,000 in five years. The school is organized into five divisions -- Humanities, Business, Social Science, Education, and

Natural Sciences. Of the faculty of approximately 250, he said, about 60 percent have Ph.Ds. in areas where that is the typical terminal degree.

In keeping with the land grant concept, Dr. Randolph described briefly an extension-type program which last year provided direct services for some 16,000 people. One such program, in the area of rehabilitation, involved about 120 inmates at Lorton Penitentiary.

The first year of classes is given at Lorton, and plans call for the second year to be given at FCC, the third year at a halfway house, and the fourth year under a parole program.

"We have been looking at a series of programs and projects so far at FCC," Dr. Randolph said. "We must start now to look at systems -- how the total resources of FCC can be used for greater impact on our area of responsibility for urban problems."

Dr. Randolph said FCC no longer has a Black Studies Program as such.

"All students need a relevant education -- the skills and knowledge to become functioning members and participants of the District of Columbia," he said. "And that's what we try to give them. There is no reason for any adjective other than 'meaningful education.' After all, they don't call the programs at Maryland University 'White Studies,' do they?"

The grading system at FCC was decided on by the student government, he said. Grades include A (excellent), B (good), C (average), D (below average), R (chance to repeat, with only new grade counting if passed; if not repeated, grade reverts to F), Withdraw, and Audit.

"There had been some talk about no grades," Dr. Randolph said, "but the students decided they wanted standards of some sort. They wanted their degrees to be respected, and we all agreed this was a workable system."

"As a state university," Dr. Randolph concluded, "we are responsible to all the residents of the District of Columbia. We've just started, but rest assured we are committed to a program of excellence."

FROM MESSENGER TO PROFESSIONAL

From GS-1 messenger to GS-7 professional in 14 years. That's the achievement of Wilbert A. Talbert, 36-year-old Labor Department employee, with the help of the Graduate School.

Mr. Talbert took Graduate School courses in statistics, automatic data processing, and reading improvement while working his way up through the ranks.

"My training has given me a greater awareness of the causes of community social problems and how our programs try to overcome them," Mr. Talbert said. "When

I was a statistical clerk I didn't know what caused unemployment or how the unemployment insurance program works. Since I've been in research, I know that one and one don't always make two, and I can appreciate the need for long-range studies of manpower programs."

Under a Labor Department Career Opportunities Program for Non-Professionals, Mr. Talbert has been assigned to actuarial and research work in the Unemployment Insurance Service.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY -- A PROGRAM LEADER

A volume on Overcoming World Hunger, supervised by Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford M. Hardin when he was Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, has entered a second printing, notes a recent report of the American Assembly.

The background volume was prepared for the 34th American Assembly, a discussion of steps to be taken to increase the world food supply, chiefly in developing nations, and to raise nutritional levels.

Writers represented in the volume include Don Paarlberg, Director of Economics for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

GREAT DECISIONS GROUPS OPEN

Groups are now being formed to take part in Great Decisions -- 1970, a study and discussion program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association and the United Nations Association, Capital Area Division.

Through this annual program, now in its sixteenth year, interested people meet informally to learn, discuss, and speak out on critical foreign policy issues facing the United States.

The eight-week program this year will cover: Soviet Union, Latin America, France, Race and World Politics, Japan, U.S. Defense Policy, Middle East and United Nations.

For more information on joining a group or forming a new one, call Mrs. Elmer Jenkins at 522-1078, or the United Nations Association, Capital Area Division, at 337-5551. Local discussion groups will be carried live on WAMU-FM (88.5) each Thursday for eight weeks beginning February 5.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dr. Edward Knipling a member of our Biological Sciences Committee is written up in the January 11 issue of the New York Times Magazine Section. The article states, "Practically the only significant scientific honor to elude him is the Nobel Prize." Dr. Knipling is director of entomology research for the Agriculture Research Service and one of our chief thinkers and planners. He not only carries on research but directs 70 U.S. Government entomology laboratories.


John B. Holden
Director

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